include substantial scaling down of cash reserve ratio (from 14 per cent of net demand and time liabilities in March 1996 to 11 per cent at present, it is proposed to be reduced further to 10 per cent by January, 1997), raising of export credit limit (from 10 per cent of net bank credit to 12 per cent by end March 1997) as also permitting commercial bank to provide foreign currency denominated loans. Banks have also been advised to reduce their prime lending rates (PLR) for all advances and to announce the maximum spread over PLR.

Proposal to Set up Zonal Benches of Supreme Court

1189. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some eminent legal luminaries have opined that Zonal Benches of the Supreme Court be set up; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Representations/suggestions have been received form time to time from different sections of society for establishing benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the Country. According to Articles 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard. No action is contemplated by the Central Government till such a proposal is received.

Tourist Potential of Excavated remains in Gujarat

1190. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excavated remains in Lothal, sun temple at Modhera and Rani Ka Vav at Patan in the State of Gujarat have the tourism potential but are facing the neglect of Central and State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the neglect of these places of tourism importance;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to properly develop these places by providing necessary infrastructure at these places to attract more tourists there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government however, the Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Govts. for specific projects based on their merits, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt. officials has identified "Refurbishment of Sun Temple at Modhera and Refurbishment of step wells at Modhera" for central financial assistance during 1996-97.

Air Safety Committee headed by Air Marshal J.K. Seth

1191. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up another Air Safety Committee headed by Air Marshal J.K. Seth recently as

reported in the 'Times of India', New Delhi, dated the 10th November, 1996;

(b) if so, what is the composition and terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) keeping in view, utter chaos reportedly prevailing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport even a day after the worst disaster on 12.11.1996 in Indian aviation history; whether Government propose to ask the above Committee to give its early recommendations/interim report on the existing air-traffic control system and safety regulations etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are at statement (see below).

(c) No, Sir.

Statement

A. *Composition of the Committee:—*

1. Air Marshal (Retd.) J.K. Seth — Chairman
2. Chairman, Airports Authority of India — Member
3. Managing Director, Indian Airlines — Member
4. Director General of Civil Aviation — Member

B. *Terms of reference of the Committee:—*

(i) To review the existing staffing norms and organisational structure of the DGCA and suggest measures for its revamping;

(ii) to review the Aircraft Act, 1934 and Aircraft Rules, 1937 and suggest changes in the regulations to bring it in time with the present day requirements;

(iii) To review the existing safety regulations, systems and procedures to ensures total flight safety;

(iv) To review the facilities for development of aviation manpower, namely pilots, engineers and other key personnel;

(v) To review the existing system of licensing aviation personnel and granting of permits to operators to ensure efficiency and safety;

(vi) To review the existing air navigation, communication and surveillance system and suggest modernisation, expansion and regulatory control of the system;

(vii) To devise a standing system of carrying out safety audits of different categories of aircraft, operators, aviation support agencies and Airport Authority to esnure all round safety in aviation.

Financial performance of Air India and Indian Airlines

1192. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the Financial performance of both Air India and India Airlines during last three years;

(b) details of measures taken to improve the financial performance of these airlines;

(c) whether the share of Air India in International Traffic has gone down considerably as compared to 1981; and

(d) if so, details thereof and measures taken to increase its share in international traffic?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) The financial performance of Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Air India Profit/(Loss)	Indian Airlines Profit/(Loss)
1993-94	201.19	258.46
1994-95	40.80	188.73
1995-96	271.84	109.98

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product,